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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 11/20/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/072,622

Applicant(s)

Lester F. Ludwig et al.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Group Art Unit

2643



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 13, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 11-13, 14-19, 22-24, 25-28, 29-31, and 34-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conway (US PAT: 5,444,476) in view of Lewen et al. (US PAT: 5,341,374, hereinafter Lewen)..

Regarding claims 1, 14, 25, Conway discloses system and method for teleinteraction comprising: at least one video signal source (14e) (fig. 7), at least one video display device 25(e), at least one pair of wires (see fig. 7) defining a video signal path, arranged for transport of video signals originating at a video source (14e), to at least one video display device (26e), at least one control communication link (37e) (fig. 7), arranged for transmission of control signals wherein the system is configured to respond to control signals transmitted over the communication link to control transport of video signals, along the video signal path (28a), and to cause video image reproduction based on transported video signals on at least one of the video display devices (figs. 6-7, col. 9 lines 19-68, col. 10 lines 1-17).

Conway differs from the claimed invention by not explicitly showing unshielded twisted pair of wires for transporting video signals.

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However, Lewen discloses communication network integrating voice data and video data which teaches the use of unshielded twisted pair of wires for transporting video signals (fig. 1, col. 6 lines 19-44).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Conway's system to use unshielded twisted pair of wires for transporting video signals as this would provide one of the means for transporting signals among many choices available as taught by Lewin.

Regarding claims 2-8, 11-13, 15-19, 22-24, 26-28, 29-31 and 34-36, Conway further teaches the following: at least one switch (20e) (fig. 7) in communication with the control communication link (37e) wherein the system is configured to control the switch to route the video signals at least from one video signal source (14e) to at least one video display device (26e) over the video signal path (fig. 7 col. 9 lines 50-65), at least one server (36e) (fig. 7) configured to control the switch (20e) (fig. 7 col. 9 lines 46-65), at least two video display devices (26e, 32e) (fig. 7) each having a associated processor to each define a work station, and wherein the system is configured to control the reproduction of video images and spoken audio of a first workstation user at the work station of a second work station user (col. 1 lines 30-42, col. 3 lines 53-65), the video signal path is separate from the control communication link (see fig. 7), reproduce the video images at greater than TV quality on at least one of the video display devices (col. 3 lines 53-68, col. 4 lines 1-7), at least one audio source and at least one audio reproduction device (not shown) wherein the system is configured to transport audio signals originating at one of the audio

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sources, at least one unshielded pair of wires (see fig. 7), and reproduce audio based on transported audio signals at one of the audio reproduction devices (col. 3 lines 53-65), at least one processing unit in (28) capable of providing data conference signals wherein the system is configured to display information based on the data conferencing signals on one of the display devices (col. 5 lines 56-68, col. 6 lines 1-20), images based on the video signals can be reproduced in a first window on of the display devices and information based on the data conference signals can be displayed on a second window on the display device (see fig. 2 col. 7 lines 20-21), the information based on the data conferencing signals is displayed interactively on at least two of the display devices (26, 34) (see fig. 1), switching the video signals from at least one of the video signal sources to at least one of the display devices over the video signal path (col. 5 lines 35-65), the video signals are transported in analog.

3. Claims 9, 20 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Conway in view of Lewen as applied to claim 1, 14, and 29 above, and further in view of Nakajima (JP401252087A).

Regarding claims 9, 20, 32, the combination does not teach the following: combining the video images of the first user and a second user into a mosaic image and reproduce the mosaic image on at least one of the display devices.

However, Nakajima discloses picture displaying system that teaches combining the video images of the first user and a second user into a mosaic image and reproduce the mosaic image on at least one of the display devices (figs. 1-2, see abstract).

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Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for means combining the video images of the first user and a second user into a mosaic image and reproduce the mosaic image on at least one of the display devices as this would facilitate display of conference participants to enhance video conference experience.

4. Claims 10, 21, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conway in view of Lewen as applied to claims 29, 17, and 29 above, and further in view of Roseman (EP 0574138).

Regarding claims 10, 21, and 33, Conway does not explicitly teach selecting collaboration types and to respond by establishing communication of the selected collaboration type from the first user to the selected user and graphical user interface to select a user and collaboration type.

However, Roseman teaches video conferencing system which teaches selecting collaboration types and to respond by establishing communication of the selected collaboration type from the first user to the selected user and graphical user interface to select a user and collaboration type (figs. 4-12, col. 1 lines 34-41, col. 4 lines 55-59, col. 5 lines 1-21, col. 8 lines 48-59, col. 9 lines 1-43)

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for selecting collaboration types and to respond to by establishing communication of the selected collaboration type from the first user to the selected user and graphical user interface to select a user and collaboration type as this

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arrangement would facilitate the user to select required interaction for collaboration type by using visual interface, thus making it easier for user to interact with the system as taught by Roseman.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding claims 6, 18, and 20, Applicant argues that "Conway is silent on the quality of the video display whereas claims 6, 128, and 29 require the video images to be at least TV quality (Preliminary Amendment, April 14, 2000)". Conway uses a TV monitor for displaying images in video conferencing (col. 3 lines. 60-668, col. 4 lines 1-7) which indicates TV quality images as required by claims.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-9508.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


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